

Application No: 10/12,540

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 4 are canceled, claim 1 is amended and new claims 5-8 are added.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uhl (U.S. Pat. No. 5,287,832).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation "means for selectively manually connecting together the engine starting pulley and the reel."

The Uhl reference does not disclose a second spring connectable to the engine starting pulley by means for selectively manually connecting together the engine starting pulley and the reel along with the other elements as recited in amended claim 1. In addition, the Uhl reference does not disclose a second spring connected to the engine starting pulley in the same manner as the present invention. The spiral spring 14 as disclosed in the Uhl reference performs a different function than the second spring of the present invention. Further the stops (27, 28) do not *selectively manually* connect together the engine starting pulley and the reel on which the pull rope is wound. This limitation is supported in the specification at page 5, lines 7-11. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

With further regard to claim 3, the cover as defined by base 10A of carrier 10 of Uhl is not positioned between the engine starting pulley and the second spring as recited in claim 3. Thus, claim 3 is allowable for this additional reason as well. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

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New claims 5-8 recite structural elements that are not anticipated or suggested by the disclosure of Uhl and should be patentable over the prior art of record in the application. In particular Uhl does not disclose or suggest "a connecting member interposed between the engine starting pulley and the reel and being shiftable between an engaged position and a disengaged position wherein in the engaged position connecting member directly rotatably connects the starting pulley to the reel and in the disengaged position the starting pulley and the reel are rotatably connected by the second spring" along with the other elements recited in claim 5. Claims 6-8 depend from claim 5 and should be patentable for at least the same reasons as indicated for claim 5.

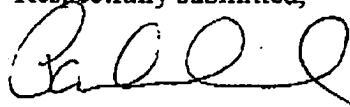
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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